



**QUESTION:**

**Should wind cause your alarm system to activate?**

**ANSWER:**

**Wind should not cause properly installed and maintained alarm systems to activate.**

- When winds exceed 30 - 40 mph, Fairfax County experiences an increase in false alarm activations.
- False alarms caused by wind are preventable.
- To prevent wind-related false alarms, eliminate movement within door and window frames which allows separation of contacts and creates a false alarm.
- Ensure doors and windows fit snug in their frames and contacts are firmly in place.
- Consider replacing loose alarm contacts with "wide" door or window contacts to fill voids which allow excessive movement of your doors and windows.

**QUESTION:**

**Should a power outage or power surge cause your system to activate?**

**ANSWER:**

**Power outages and/or surges should not cause properly installed and maintained alarm systems to activate.**

To prevent power surges or power outages from causing false alarms, contact your alarm company to verify that your alarm system has been properly installed in compliance with the County Code of Fairfax, Security Alarm Systems. This includes properly installed surge suppressors and adequate backup battery:

- Ensure surge suppressors are installed on **both** the alarm system and on the phone line sending the alarm signal to your central monitoring station.
- Ensure your alarm system batteries are holding a minimum charge of 4 hours—if not, replace them, (County Code of Fairfax 8.1 Section 8.1.-3-5).
- Properly maintained batteries and surge suppressors help reduce false alarms.

**Remember, wind-related alarm activations are false alarms.**

Fairfax County Police Department, False Alarm Reduction Unit, 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030  
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This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at (703-246-7562 or TTY (703) 204-2264. Allow seven working days for preparation of the material.



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